



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mothers of Homicide Victims Plead for Tips to Crime Stoppers

Their sons are the face of a new billboard campaign to help solve cases

Buffalo, NY- Crime Stoppers WNY announces a new billboard campaign that features the names and photos of some of Buffalo's homicide victims whose murders have yet to be solved.

"Homicides are not just a sad statistic," says **Frank Christiano, Board Chair of Crime Stoppers WNY**. "They are people whose tragic death has created tremendous loss and pain for the families and friends they have left behind."

Crime Stoppers WNY is including the victims on the billboards to put a face to these murders and hopefully prompt the public to come forward with information to help bring their killers to justice.

"After my son's death, everyone went back to their lives, but I am still suffering," says **Gayla Ross of Buffalo**. Ross' son 19-year-old Amir Jemes was fatally shot on April 13, 2018, at 88 Littlefield St.

Joining Ross for today's news conference are three other mothers whose sons are also featured on the billboard:

Markeita Bennett's son 27-year-old Rene-Cameren Tucker was shot on December 19, 2019, at Moselle St. and Box Ave., and died the following day at ECMC. "Where are we as people when you are too afraid to help a family get justice or allow a victim to rest in peace?" says **Bennett**. "It's time to stop blaming the system and make ourselves accountable by standing up for what is right."

Torina Bigham's son 26-year-old Lorenzo Jones III was murdered on March 1, 2021, at 576 Hertel Ave. "No mother deserves to bury her child," says **Bigham**. "I pray for justice for all our families."

Robyn Gerow's son 29-year-old Marcus Spain was fatally shot on March 14, 2021, at 224 Johnson St. "I would like to thank Crime Stoppers WNY for the opportunity to share our story," says **Gerow**. "We won't rest until we know for sure the people responsible for these terrible acts are off the streets."

The billboard campaign is the result of partnerships with Erie County, the Erie County District Attorney's Office, the Buffalo Police Department, and the Erie County Sheriff's Office. Their combined contributions to this effort have surpassed \$100,000.

The \$80,000 earmarked over a three-year period by Erie County will help raise the reward money for tips to:

- \$7,500 for information leading to an arrest and prosecution in a homicide (\$2,500 from City, County and Crime Stoppers).
- \$5,000 for information leading to an arrest and prosecution in a shooting incident.
- \$1,000 for information leading to the seizure of illegal weapons.

“Adding the faces and names of homicide victims to the Crime Stoppers WNY billboards is a powerful way to send the message that these killers are still out there, and we are working to apprehend them,” says **Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz**. “I thank the victims’ family members for their courage in coming forward to share their stories and I urge anyone with information on these crimes to please share that knowledge with Crime Stoppers.”

“My office is committed to bringing justice to the families of the victims. I want to thank Crime Stoppers for highlighting these unsolved homicide cases. We need help from our community to identify and prosecute these murderers. Tips can be provided anonymously, so I encourage anyone with information to contact Crime Stoppers Western New York,” said **Erie County District Attorney John Flynn**.

“Crime Stoppers is an invaluable tool for law enforcement and the community. I urge anyone with information about these homicides or other crimes to use this anonymous tool to help bring justice to the victims, their families and to help make our community safer,” says **Erie County Sheriff Timothy Howard**.

Ten homicide billboards will be up through the end of September, featuring the photos of eight different homicide victims each month. Targeted areas will be Buffalo’s hot spots where the greatest number of shootings have taken place over the past three years.

Anyone with information on a crime can report it on the Buffalo Tips app that can be downloaded for free at the Apple App Store or on Google Play or call 716.867.6161.

ALL TIPS WILL REMAIN ANONYMOUS. For more information, visit crimestopperswny.org.

Here are the locations of the Crime Stoppers billboards for 8/1 - 8/29/21:

1. 1712-14 MAIN ST S/O NORTHLAND
2. 860 BAILEY & DINGENS
3. 1435 SYCAMORE & WALDEN
4. 2500 MAIN ST IN BUFFALO
5. 786 JEFFERSON NEAR VIRGINIA
6. 2175 NIAGARA ST N/O ARTHUR
7. 225 AMHERST STREET
8. 723 MICHIGAN AVE S/O CHERRY
9. 374 SMITH OPP CLIFFORD
10. 410 KENMORE AVE E/O BUDWAY'S MARKET

EARN UP TO \$7500
For Tips leading to the arrest in a Homicide, a Shooting, or a gun possessed illegally during a crime.

GET THE "BUFFALO TIPS" APP OR CALL 867-6161

Recent Victims:

 Homicide Victim TYRRELL MOORE 5/7/19	 Homicide Victim RAHN JAMES 4/13/18	 Homicide Victim RENCAMARTIN TUCKER 12/18/18	 Homicide Victim YUSUF HAXSEN 4/23/21	 Homicide Victim MARCOS SPAIN 3/14/21	 Homicide Victim LESHON JAMES 3/1/21	 Homicide Victim JESHYN "BOBBY" BISHOP 12/27/16	 Homicide Victim BESHAWN WILLIAMS 7/4/18
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